

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Bighorn Sheep Helicopter Survey – Game Management Units (GMU's) 12A, 12BW & 13A	
---	--

Project Type: Bighorn Sheep Helicopter Survey	Project Number: 07-719
--	-------------------------------

<p>Project Description: It is recommended that a helicopter survey be conducted in Game Management Units (GMU's) 12A, 12BW and 13A. Information collected during surveys will enable the District Wildlife Manager to determine the availability of mature rams for harvest during the 2008 sheep season. Information collected during this survey effort will also be used in determining population trends and disease prevalence.</p> <p>Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep – 100%</p>

Implementation Schedule:

Beginning: *February, 2008

Completed: *March, 2008 *Dates are tentative
--

PROJECT FUNDING

SBG Funds Requested: <u>\$14,850.00</u>	Funds Administration:
--	------------------------------

Total Project Costs: <u>\$14,850.00</u>	
--	--

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant: John Sims/Todd Buck Telephone: (435) 644-3794 / (435) 644-3792 HPC: Fredonia HPC	Address: 3500 S. Lake Mary Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001
--	---

Coordinated with:

Applicant's signature:	Date:
-------------------------------	--------------

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

**Game Branch
2221 W. Greenway Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85023**

NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Annual surveys from 1998 to 2006 indicate the bighorn population in GMUs 12A, 12BW and 13A have declined. In 1998 141 bighorn sheep were classified in 10.2 survey hours. This number declined to a total of 91 bighorn sheep classified in 23.4 survey hours in 2006's survey effort. This represents approximately 35.5% fewer sheep classified with a 129% increase in survey effort. In 2005 hunters reported observing sheep that were exhibiting symptoms of respiratory distress. Follow-up investigations by wildlife managers resulted in the documentation of sick sheep exhibiting reported symptoms and one ram mortality potentially resulting from reported symptoms. In 2006, the Department completed a capture and disease assessment of bighorn from GMU's 12A, 12BW and 13A. Results of the testing indicated the presence of *Pastuerella*, *Mycoplasma*, and Para-Influenza in several captured bighorn. This information led to the development of "The Kanab Creek Supplemental Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan".

The bighorn sheep population in Kanab Creek has been supplemented periodically from 1985-2005 with the most recent supplement occurring in 2005. This transplant effort was funded by the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society and involved the capture of 26 bighorn in the Virgin River Gorge area of GMU 13B. The captured bighorn were successfully transported to and released in northern 13A. District Wildlife Managers have completed monthly telemetry flights to monitor collared sheep since their release. Reports of collared sheep from this transplant effort exhibiting symptoms of disease suggest that the disease levels in the Kanab Creek sheep herd continues to be a serious issue and that some newly introduced sheep may have contracted the diseases.

In order to more accurately manage this sheep population, continue to monitor the affects of documented diseases, and to offer optimal permit levels consistent with management guidelines, it is important to collect accurate and current population data. A disease assessment/survey effort to monitor this population has been identified in "The Kanab Creek Supplemental Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan" for the fall of 2008.

Bighorn sheep habitat in GMU's 12A, 12BW, and 13A is remote, complex and encompasses an extremely large area. To collect data obtained through the use of helicopters by any other method would be essentially impossible.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- The objective of the project is to complete a Bighorn Sheep survey of approximately 205 square miles of bighorn sheep habitat in the Kanab Creek Watershed (GMU's 12A, 12BW and 13A).
- The data derived from this survey will be used to set permit levels for the 2008 sheep season.
- To determine changes in population levels.

PROJECT STRATEGIES:

Utilize Special tag funds to conduct a helicopter survey of approximately 205 square miles of bighorn sheep habitat in the Kanab Creek Drainage (GMU's 12A, 12BW and 13A).

PROJECT LOCATION:

The survey will be conducted in GMU's 12A, 12BW and 13A, specifically the Kanab Creek Watershed including major side canyons (i.e. Hack, Grama, Snake Gulch).

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Habitat in the Kanab Creek Drainage ranges from broken riparian habitat at the lowest elevations, blackbrush communities at the middle elevation, and open sagebrush pinyon-juniper communities at the highest elevations.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET
Bighorn Sheep Survey GMU's 12A, 12BW & 13A

Costs Category- Helicopter, Fuel truck	Grant Dollars Requested (Special Tag Funds)
18 hours survey time @ \$825.00/hour (includes Ferry Time)	\$14,850.00
Totals	\$14.850.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Helicopter surveys in GMU's 12A, 12BW and 13A will be conducted by AGFD employees, a contract pilot and a contract helicopter.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Survey results will be forwarded to the Region II Game Specialist. A report on survey results will be included in the bighorn sheep hunt recommendation for GMU's 12A, 12BW and 13A in February 2008.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

John Sims, Wildlife Manager, GMU 13A
Todd Buck, Wildlife Manager, GMU 12A

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

(Please complete the report and forward to Game Branch
within 30 days of the completion of the project. THANK YOU!)

Project Title: _____

Project number: _____

Location: _____

Project Coordinator (Proponent): _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Project Completion Date _____

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND/OR CONSERVATION GROUPS, LANDOWNERS, ETC.:

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

PROJECT RESULT ACTIONS:

(List practices implemented as a result of project, i.e. area rested from grazing for 2 yrs., season recommendations revised based on new distributions data received from project, etc.)

COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

(Please list updates, reports, concerns, suggestions)

PHOTO: (Please attach)

MAIL COMPLETED PROJECT COMPLETION FORM TO:

**Ron Day, Game Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 W. Greenway Road
Phoenix, AZ 85023**

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT NAME: _____

- 1) What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)
☐ 2-4 ☐ 4-6 ☐ 6-8 ☐ 8-10 ☐ 10-12 ☐ 12-14 ☐ 14-16 ☐ >16
- 2) Is there a perennial water source available to big game within five miles of this project?
☐ YES (please complete #3 below) ☐ NO (skip #3 below)
- 3) For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:

Name of water source:
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank, etc.):
Ownership of water source:
Distance in miles from project:
- 4) Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 5) Please list the Development Branch personnel coordinated with for this project, along with their office phone number.
- 6) Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument, etc). If private land, list landowner.
- 7) Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:
Type of access (mark one): ☐ 2x4 vehicles ☐ 4x4 only ☐ foot only**
**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? ☐ YES ☐ NO
-- Please describe any restrictions to public access:
- 8) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.